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Former car salesman
faces discrimination
case

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Targeting Black women
as your customer base

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Pam Grier is Jackie
Brown

NEWS BRIEFS

LONG DISTANCE COMPANY
PAYS \$225,000 IN FRAUD
CLAIMS, PAYS

NEWARK—EqualNet Corporation, has agreed New Jersey and 10 other states a total of \$225,000 to settle allegations that it engaged in fraud in the course of selling long distance service.

New Jersey's share under the agreement with the Houston, TX based company will be approximately \$21,000. This settlement will help protect New Jersey consumers because EqualNet will substantially change the way it does business. Attorney General Peter Verniero said.

**SOLUTION TO FUNDING
HEALTH CARE FOR THE
UNINSURED**

TRENTON—Recently passed legislation will put to rest the question of how to pay for health care for the state's uninsured has been passed by Governor Whitman.

The legislation will provide a total of \$489.1 million in funding for charity care and additional subsidized health care programs in 1998. With the signing of these laws, we now have a permanent revenue source to fund the charity care program, and we are putting an end to reliance on unemployment insurance," Governor Whitman said.

**OLIVER NEEDS MORE
SUPPORT IN FREEHOLDER
BID**

EAST ORANGE—Although she has received support from local officials and clergy, it is uncertain that Sheila Oliver will receive the five votes needed to replace Joseph DiVincenzo as president of the Essex County Board of Freeholders.

Oliver supporters praised her ability to control leadership should she be elected, and say that it is time for DiVincenzo to step down. DiVincenzo, who was previously in favor of Oliver in the position, now wants to be the Freeholder presidency as a springboard to run for Essex County Executive. "This is about Essex County politics—politics of the old," he said.

**UNWED MOM GOES TO
COURT OVER FIRING FROM
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

NEW YORK—A federal judge refused to dismiss a \$1 million lawsuit filed by Michelle Gandy against the Allen Christian School in Queens. The unmarried Gandy was fired from the school in 1996 when she told school authorities that she was four months pregnant.

Gandy's attorney, Timothy Smith, said the case is about the equal treatment of men and women. "It is an interesting issue because there is broad power to make staffing decisions based on their own religious beliefs," he said.

**KENYAN PRESIDENT
STARTS FIFTH TERM WITH
PLEA FOR UNITY**

NAIROBI, Kenya—Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi will take his fifth presidential oath in the wake of criticism that the election was rigged and he is to blame for the corruption that has made international investors desert the country.

While Moi called for Kenyans to "start a new chapter altogether" to attend to the country's problems, two of his closest rivals, Mwai Kibaki, a former vice president, and Raila Odinga, son of an independence leader have protested the vote, and called for a rerun within 21 days.

The CIA report fans more conspiracy theories

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

There are two problems with the recent CIA report absolving itself of the charge that it pumped massive amounts of cocaine into Black neighborhoods of Los Angeles during the 1980s to raise money to finance the Contra war effort in Nicaragua. The first problem is that its findings appear under-estimating the illness and danger of having a government agency investigate itself. It will always do everything it can to put the happiest face on even the most blatantly wrong acts it may have committed. Ex-CIA operatives that plotted the CIA-Contra war blasted the report as shoddy and superficial. They claimed that CIA investigators did not ask them the right questions or asked no questions at all of them, and that the sole intent was

to wipe any taint of scandal off the agency.

The irony is that the CIA probably didn't have to soft-peddle its investigation. Gary Webb who broke the story in the San Jose Mercury News in August, 1996, did not explicitly charge that CIA officials directly conspired to or approved any plan, to deliberately dump drugs in L.A.'s Black neighborhoods.

If Webb's allegations as far as they went had been confirmed, and there is strong inferential evidence that they were close to accurate, it meant that at least some CIA-connected operatives turned a blind eye to the dirty deals. It was not smoking-gun proof of direct government conspiracy to dope-up Black communities.

Still, it was enough to justify outrage from all Americans. The drug plague has

slammed many families hard, created chaos with many lives, and allowed vast pandering public officials to turn public hysteria over drugs into public approval for harshly punitive drug laws that target minorities and the poor.

But by spinning to judgment and not instantly distancing themselves from the conspiracy theorists, some very well-intentioned Black activists and elected officials, gave much of the media the excuse it eagerly wanted to attack their credibility, downplay the drug issue as a Black problem or ridicule it as yet another case of "Black paranoia." Ultimately it prevented the full prosecution of any public official or private citizen involved in drug trafficking.

The issue was left to wither on the vine within and without Black communities with no official action ever taken

against any of the culprits that may have operated with the quiet government seal of approval and were actually involved in the drug trafficking.

The second problem with the CIA report is that having loose ends dangling will only feed the suspicions of the conspiracy theorists that government agencies always lie and cover-up to protect itself, and that there is a plot to wipe out African Americans. Since the 1960s, the conspiracy theorists have pumped the idea that everything that happens in and to African Americans is part of a social plan. Their theory goes like this. Following the urban uprisings of the 1960s, the ghettos were flooded with drugs, alcohol, gangs and guns. During the 1980s, AIDS was imported in.

The "White establishment" wanted to stop Blacks from developing unity

and strong programs to counter oppression. The plot was to get Blacks to self-destruct. There is no hard evidence that any of this is true. The repeated demands by Black political leaders for independent government investigations and the appointment of special prosecutors to delve into the political assassinations of Black leaders and gun and drug dealing in the Black communities have been mostly ignored or ridiculed by government officials. This has made many African Americans feel that there is no truth to the claim of the conspiracy theorists of secret government plots against African Americans. While the CIA did itself a favor by clearing itself of any involvement with drug dealers, it almost certainly guaranteed that the ranks of those who still believe it was involved will swell even more.

Bowser, McWilliams takes posts as mayor

With promises to restore their respective cities through economic development, education initiatives and safer and cleaner streets, East Orange Mayor Robert Bowser, in photo at right, with his wife Marilyn; and Plainfield's mayor Al McWilliams, with his wife Darlene, in photo at far right, start their respective terms of office in swearing-in ceremonies on New Year's Day.



1997 Portraiss in Black 1997

Compiled by Earl, maitoo

If it happened in your neighborhood or across the country, *City News* brought you the best and most informative news articles from mid-century concerning African American community. Here are just some of the best stories you read in this paper last year.

January

To Ebony or not to Ebony—is that the question? Bill Cosby, host of the show "The Cosby Show," was named to the Texas Black Hall of Fame. Texas Black Hall of Fame. Dallas Payne goes to Congress for the fifth time. There are no "Ghosts."

Some of the news for the week ending...

January 7

Black doctors battle to participate in HMO's
Three Black doctors from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, oppose an insurance industry lawsuit that would restrict their ability to acquire health insurance. The lawsuit would require any qualified healthcare provider. The doctors said that if the law is struck down, Black doctors "stand to be deprived of equal protection and equal treatment."

Corporate apartheid

An opinion written by Earl Ofari Hutchinson discusses how the racial epithets used by officials of Texas Oil Company reflect the attitudes of senior management in those companies. While large organizations talk diversity, equality and fair play, the reality is that African Americans are skillfully corralled in corporate banquets, then told how far they've come.

January 14

The 'Ebony-Black English' debate
While columnist Aski Muhammad didn't want to encourage a "sub-standard form of the Queen's English" after closer observation and comparisons with Paul Laurence Dunbar's poetry, gospel music and Dizzy Gillespie Jazz, he decided to be more generous in his opinion of Ebony.

Texas settles lawsuit

Over 1,300 African American employees will receive back pay as a result of a settlement in a racial discrimination suit brought against Texaco Oil Corporation. As a measure of "good faith," Texaco paid \$115 million in excise for the settlement.

'Ghosts' distorts real Evers story
Investigative reporter Ti-Hua

Chang involvement in bringing Medgarh Evers' killer to justice refutes the story line of the movie "Ghosts of Mississippi." Chang, who was among City News' 100 Most Influential in 1996, went to Mississippi in 1990 to cover the story of Byron De La Beckwith, all-white jury trials, both of which ended in hung juries. His investigation turned up four new witnesses to the murder.

January 21

Celebrating the Dream
A biographical sketch of the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and his birthday came to be a national holiday.

Corporate Forum discusses affirmative action

Nearly 200 corporate representatives, political leaders and community representatives met in the first of a series of panel discussions sponsored by the New Jersey Corporate Forum to discuss subjects such as the effect of a proposed State bill to eliminate affirmative action would have on minority employees and businesses.

January 28

Police release killers sketch
A sketch of the man presumed to be the murderer of Emory Cosby, the son of entertainer Bill Cosby, was released by the Los Angeles Police Department. The sketch was a composite done from descriptions from two witnesses, a private security guard and a personal friend of the murder victim.

Rainbow Coalition and Mitsubishi reach accord
In the aftermath of complainant's sexual harassment at its Normal, Ill. plant, Mitsubishi Motors joined with the Rainbow Coalition (PUSH) in a joint covenant that will bring over \$200 million in new investment and economic opportunity to African Americans, other minorities and women.

Volanda King: "I truly believe in the Dream"
The daughter of Martin Luther King Jr. spoke to a capacity crowd at the 36th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast at the New York City Club.

Saying that she believes in the dream because she chooses to believe, she told the audience that they, too, could choose: "You can choose patience over impatience,

action over inaction, peace over anger and belief over disbelief."

February

Black History Month
Bill Cosby calls a "daughter." A four-part series "Remembering the Movement" talked to four New Jersey residents about their experiences during the civil rights struggle. Democracy in Nigeria.

Some of the news for the week ending...

February 4

Mother, three daughters dead
Monclair firefighters responded to a house fire and came upon the sad scene of Delatrice Bennett and her three children; all dead with gunshot wounds to the head. Reports would not speculate whether the tragedy was a suicide or homicide, but noted that Bennett, recently off welfare and overwhelmed with making ends meet, was found with a gun lying on her chest.

Woman claiming to be Cosby daughter arrested

A reunion luncheon was held at the MetLife corporate headquarters for 15 college students provided with a stipend from One Hundred Black Men. MetLife acted as a "corporate parent" for the students by offering an insight into the corporate world and the skills necessary to achieve future success.

February 11

On the road for democracy in Nigeria
Completing a six-city tour of the United States, "the record straight" and describe what is happening in Nigeria. Dr. Abel Ubeke, Chairman of the Congress for National Consensus in Nigeria, predicted the inauguration of a civilian president in Nigeria in October of 1998.

Beverly Williams elected chairperson of joint meeting
The chairwoman of the East Orange City Council was elected chairperson of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties. Beverly K. Williams was the first East

Orange member of the 11-member board to serve as Chair and the first African American woman to assume the position.

February 18

O.J. verdict creates grounds for appeal
While defense lawyers have plenty of ground for a possible appeal of the acquittal in the O.J. Simpson, experts say that it is unlikely that the popular verdict will be overturned.

Newark: The Riots of '68

In the third installment of the four-part series "Remembering the Movement," City News staff member Sonja Kimble-Elis interviewed her mother, Delores Kimble, who talks about the racial unrest in Newark about the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Hall attacked for Newark School takeover
Unfavorable testimony was given in a hearing before State assemblymen and senators about the quality of Newark Public Schools since the state takeover.

Most of the anger was directed at State District Superintendent Dr. Beverly Hall, who was present at the hearing only to give opening remarks. To some participants, that illustrated the problem.

February 25

Former soldier goes on trial in slaying of Black civilians
James Burdette, accused of the murder of Jackie Burden and Michael James in Fayetteville, NC, told his girlfriend that his slayment activities would "be over when he killed someone."

In his opening statement, prosecutor John Dickson said that Burden and James were gunned down merely because they existed.

Mfume vows active agenda for NAACP in 1997
"We may be more active than people want," said NAACP president Kwame Mfume in announcing his plans for an aggressive agenda for his second year at the helm of the civil rights organization. Mfume said the focus would be on civil rights enforcement, voter empowerment and youth outreach.

Tribute to Steve Jordan
A community leader, retired police officer and role model, Plain-

field resident Steve Jordan died at the age of 50. A founder of the DARE program in Plainfield, he was known for his many community projects, especially the work he has done for youth.

March

Women's History Month
Youth say "YES" Biggie's dead. Baseball season delayed to Jackie Robinson. Barack's Bio. Suspect arrested in Cosby case. Joe Clark on Ebonics. Some of the news for the week ending...

March 4

Educators, Business, Community & Political Leaders, join to help youth say 'YES to their future'
Malcolm X Shabazz High School was the setting for the 1997 Say "YES" to Your Future kickoff. The event brought public servants, corporate executives, clergy and community organizations together in their desire to contribute to the future of young people.

UMDNJ honors Minority Health Council
The 1997 Medal for Distinguished Leadership of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) was presented to the UMDNJ Minority Health Council. The Council was established in 1983 to address the health issues of the state's minority and underserved populations.

Joe Clark speaks his mind on Ebonics
On the campus of the State University of New Jersey, Joe Clark, director, Essex County Youth House said, "People are being tricked into the nonsense that... (Ebonics) is a way of covering up mediocrity in schools. Just ask any successful Black kid if he/she 'speaks Ebonics'."

March 11

Whitman delivers curriculum guide on African-American history
Governor Christine Whitman presented a copy of the New Jersey African American history guide to a Trenton high school. The guide will be part of the state's curriculum standards that are part of her school reform initiative. The standards show that students should learn, but schools have the freedom to decide how they are taught.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

Feb. 1st. For more info, call 212-708-3400.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

EDISON—An open house will be held at the Middlesex County College Department of Continuing Studies from 6 to 8 p.m. For more info, call 732-906-2523.

ATLANTIC CITY—The largest indoor display of yachts north of Miami will mark the Atlantic City International Power Boat Show through Jan. 18th. The show opens from 1 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more info, call 215-752-8001.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

NEW YORK—An exhibition representing the first in-depth examination of Arthur Dove's work in more than 20 years will open at the Whitney Museum of American Art through April 12, 1996. For more info, call 212-570-3533.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

NEWARK—Public and Community Schools Conference from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Essex County College, Main building, 4th floor. Same day registration.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

PLAINFIELD—Twentieth Century Artists' Exhibition Posters will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Swain Galleries. For more info, call 908-756-1707.

METUCHEN—A Kid's Forum at Forum Theatre will present "School House Rock Live!" at 11 a.m. For more info, call 732-548-0252.

TEANECK—A Kid's Forum at Forum Theatre will present "School House Rock Live!" at 11 a.m. For more info, call 732-548-0252.

NEWARK—A film on Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held at 2 p.m. at the Newark Museum. For more info, call 201-596-6637.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

CRANFORD—Union County College will introduce a three-credit history course on the Civil War. For more info, call 908-709-7503.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

WATCHUNG—Nubia Santos will cover both two- and three-dimensional art during Friday morning sessions. For more info, call 908-753-0190.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

EAST BRUNSWICK—Children have the opportunity to win tickets to New Jersey Nets, Philadelphia 76ers, Rutgers and Seton Hall University basketball games when they sign up for the NJ Nets Basketball Blast from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more info, call 800-468-2027.

continued from page one

Baseball dedicates season to Robinson

Acting baseball commissioner Bud Selig announced that the 1997 season will be dedicated to Jackie Robinson and \$11 million will be donated to a foundation bearing his name. Selig said of the player who broke the color line 50 years ago, "Should it have come earlier? Certainly. There never should have been a barrier."



Ben Chavis Converts to Islam

Former NAACP head Ben Chavis said the Nation of Islam's influence in the black community helped to spur his conversion to the religion. Selig dismissed talk of succeeding leader Louis Farrakhan, and said that, "This is not a gimmick. This is life transformation." He said he would work with all groups to help find solutions to inner city problems.

March 18

Parents, teachers rally for school funding

With the State Supreme Court hearing opening arguments about the future of the school funding law, over 200 people representing 30 poorer New Jersey school districts rallied outside the State Supreme Court for parity in that funding.



Rapper Notorious B.I.G. slain in Los Angeles

Christopher Wallace, aka Notorious B.I.G./Biggie Smalls became the second major rap star to die in a drive-by shooting in the last six months. Wallace, 24, was shot outside a Los Angeles record industry party while sitting in his sport utility vehicle.

Amiri Baraka tells his story

One of America's most vital and original authors—and Newark resident—brings his story to life. This edition of the Autobiography of Leroy Jones hits the stands without the editorial censure of his previous release in 1984.

March 25

MURDER CHARGE FILED IN COSBY SLAYING; TEEN COULD FACE DEATH

An 18-year-old Russian immigrant was charged with murder for the January slaying of entertainer Bill Cosby's only son, Ennis. Police say the suspect, Mikhail Markhashev, randomly chose Cosby for a robbery attempt, shooting him as he was changing a flat tire.

Retired Texaco executive indicted; attorney promised innocent plea

A former Texaco executive, Richard Lundwall, who secretly tape-recorded himself and his colleagues planning to destroy evidence in a race-discrimination case was charged with obstruction of justice. Prosecutors indicted Lundwall, after failing to persuade him to testify against other company officials.

April

Singer Cissy Houston and television journalist Tony Brown are among City News 100 Most Influential. Newark aide receives guilty verdict. East Orange Mayor singled out for number three spot in the EPA. Tiger Woods wins Masters. Wynon Marsalis receives Pulitzer. Bell Atlantic-Maryland names black woman as president.

Some of the news for the week ending...

April 1

Tuskegee Airmen honored on 50th anniversary of Armed Forces integration

The city of Newark paid tribute to the "Tuskegee Airmen" on the 50th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Forces at a luncheon and awards program in the City Hall Auditorium. Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-Americans to train and engage in battle as fighter pilots during World War II.

April 8

Mayor James Accepts Mattison resignation

After a nine-week trial found him guilty of corruption, Newark mayorial aide Jackie Mattison submitted his resignation from municipal government. Newark Mayor Sharpe James called the guilty verdict "a personal tragedy" for the two men and a human, not an institutional error.

Police officer quits amid furor

Hours before he was to testify before a disciplinary hearing regarding the fatal shooting of New Brunswick resident Carolyn "Sissy" Adams, Police Officer James C.

salvo resigned from that city's police force. Eleven departmental charges stood. Cossavio acted improperly when he shot Adams for allegedly resisting arrest.

Entertainment Briefs

Biggie Smalls album, "Life After Death" sells off the shelf two weeks after his murder. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. receives an Oscar in the Best Supporting Actor category for his work in Jerry Maguire and creates a National catch phrase: "Show me the money." Singer Harold Melvin, who along with the group the Blue Notes gained international fame, died of a stroke at 57.

April 15

Whitman leads international conference for minority and women entrepreneurs

An awards ceremony taking place during the 1997 Minority Business conference and IMBC National and International Exposition will honor Rev. Ron Sullivan and Congressman Donald Payne. Governor Christine Todd Whitman gave the keynote speech to an estimated 1,000 conferees from emerging markets in the Americas, Asia, the Pacific Rim and the Caribbean.

Rosewood loses to Bonty Call, Why Do We Support the Worst?

An editorial by Sharon Khakhsar Vincent praises the little-known but well-done John Singleton film "Rosewood." She also warns that if audiences continue to boost horrendously acted, badly scripted films with negative messages like Bonty Call, those are the kind of films that will get made.

April 22

Tiger Woods is the Master

Fifty years after Jackie Robinson broke the color line in baseball, Tiger Woods became the first person of African descent to win golf's most prestigious event—the Masters Golf Tournament. Born one year after pioneer black golfer Lee Elder became the first black man to enter the competition, Woods' 12-stroke victory over his closest competitor was another milestone.

Wynon Marsalis among Pulitzer winners

Jazz/Classical: Trumpeter Wynon Marsalis became the first jazz composer to win the Pulitzer Prize for music, receiving the award for "Blood on the Fields," his epic oratorio on slavery.

NAACP outraged by Prop. 209 ruling

Voicing its disappointment and

anger by the court ruling that upholds Proposition 209 in California, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume called on the State Assembly and the State Senate of California to move towards balancing the disparities left in the wake of this ruling. Proposition 209 bans affirmative action based on race and gender.

Christian Coalition supports "Black Jesus"

Controversy surrounding a black man playing the role of Jesus Christ in a locally-produced Passion Play has resulted in great support for the actor, Desi Amaz Giles. This support included the conservative Christian Coalition. Members of the group met with Giles to congratulate him on his performance.

April 29

East Orange Mayor nominated for top EPA position

Announcing that he will not seek re-election, Mayor Cardell Cooper was nominated by President Clinton for the top position in the US Environmental Agency overseeing the cleanup of Superfund sites.

364 to lose jobs when Muller's pasta plant closes in Jersey City

CPC International, Inc. announced that it was closing the 82-year-old Muller's pasta plant at the end of the year. The corporation said it has reached an agreement with union officials "above and beyond" union requirements regarding severance pay and other matters for the plant's 364 employees.

May

Mobutu booted out. Alexis Herman voted in. White woman lies about being raped. 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL. Eddie Murphy caught in the act. Black motorist beaten during "Freknik." Top Black executive commits suicide. The funeral of "Queen Mother" Moore. Some of the news for the week ending...

May 7

Summit Message: mentor, Protector, Nurture, Teach and serve as One

The President's Summit on America's Future kicked off with a goal to mobilize millions of citizens and thousands of organizations from all over the country in a spirit of volunteerism, one that seeks to secure the future of America's youth.

BPU adopted \$176 million settlement with Bell Atlantic

continued on page 5

THIRD ANNUAL CITY NEWS



Recognizing the 100 Most Influential who have fostered the progress of black people or the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers

In nominating a person(s) for the award, you must identify yourself and give a phone number where you can be reached. The Third Annual 100 Most Influential award will be held the first week in May.

Nomination Form

All information is confidential. The deadline is January 29, 1998

Nominee's name _____
Address _____
Home Phone _____ Bus. Phone _____ Fax _____
Briefly describe why you feel your nominee has contributed significantly to the progress of black people in New Jersey or to the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers.

Send to: City News 100, PO Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07060 or fax to (908) 753-1036

Nominee Categories-- Please check one category:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Media Journalism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts & Culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Community Involvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Health, Science & Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment & Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minority Business Enterprise | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics, Law & Government |

Who are New Jersey's 100 Most Influential?

- Individuals who contribute significantly to the progress of black people in the state of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their success to uplift the black communities of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their positions to promote good corporate citizenship
- Individuals who selflessly do extraordinary community service
- Individuals who not only understand the critical importance of rebuilding New Jersey's urban communities, but also commit significant time and resources to urban revitalization

City News Publishing Company presents

The Third Annual City News

100 Most Influential

May 1998

6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

For tickets and information call

(908) 754-3400

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Reno delays hate crime decision pending local trial

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Attorney General Janet Reno has postponed any decision about whether the burning and beating of a black man was racially motivated until two white men (Ernest Ceparano, Jr., and Louis Ceparano) are tried for the crime he was prosecuted.

The notification came in a December letter to state Attorney General Richard Cullen, who asked the Justice Department to agree to allow the state to pursue its case first. "At the conclusion of the state proceedings and the federal investigation, federal prosecutors will consider all evidence and determine whether any further federal action is warranted," Reno wrote.

Federal attorneys are investigating whether the July 25, 1997 death of 40-year-old Garner Johnson, Jr. was a racially-motivated hate crime. Such a finding could mean the state would have to drop the case.

Investigators say Johnson was killed with gasoline and set afire and then his head was cut off, after an all-night drinking party at the rural Grayson County home of Ceparano. Johnson was charged with first-degree murder while Ceparano faces capital murder. Both were also charged with robbery and kidnapping. Johnson was charged with the victim's death. If convicted, Ceparano faces a possible death sentence and Cressell life in prison. Ceparano's trial is set for April 1.

Nation's first African American-owned theater chain opens

CHICAGO—Allan and Donzell Stokes, president of Inner City Entertainment, Inc. (ICE), the first African-American-owned theater chain in the country, have brought more than a touch of Hollywood to Chicago.

The three \$40 million state-of-the-art multiplexes, financed by the husband and wife team, also brought over 400 jobs, family-oriented entertainment and most importantly, hope for economic revitalization in Chicago's underserved communities. **Inner City Entertainment**, along with their Toronto-based partners, Cineplex Odeon Corporation, will operate the Chicago multiplexes. Mayor Richard M. Daley praised the project for generating "much needed" economic growth in the city's rebuilding of Lawndale, Chicago Law and Chatham neighborhoods, as well as providing a job training program for area youth. The Inner City Entertainment/Cineplex Odeon Theaters premiered with the opening screening of Steven Spielberg's film "Armistice."

International Briefs

Zimbabwe's foreign minister heads for Zambia

HARARE, Zimbabwe (PANA)—Zimbabwe's foreign minister Stan Mudenge has left Harare for a three-day visit to Zambia amid mounting international condemnation of Rwanda's detention of leading President Kenneth Kaunda on suspicions of involvement in a failed coup.

Mudenge, however, said he was going to attend a joint Zimbabwe-Zambia ministerial commission discussing the two countries' bilateral agreements and the current political climate in the region.

Environment and tourism minister Simon Moyo said he was also taking to Zambia a special message to President Frederick Chiluba from his counterpart, Robert Mugabe.

Sources interviewed later revealed the Kaunda issue was top priority to Mudenge's agenda.

Kaunda was arrested upon his return from a long trip overseas, which took him to India, South Africa, the United States and Zimbabwe. About 90 opposition figures have so far been arrested and held for allegedly taking part in plotting the coup.

Renovations meeting planned for Congo

KINSHASA, Congo (PANA)—The government of President Laurent Kabila is to hold a national reconstruction conference starting January 24, in Kinshasa. The national reconstruction will be held more than a month after international donors met in London and pledged substantial amounts of funds to help in the reconstruction process.

Warner brothers coalesce to protest Time-Warner's offensive music

• Led by Melba Moore, the coalition sang good songs to protest the bad ones.

NEW YORK—Moore's leaders Anita Perez-Ferguson, Gloria Steinern, Eleanor Smeal, and C. Delores Tucker, joined by entertainers Anita Baker, Gladys Knight and conference outlaws of Time-Warner corporate headquarters in New York City last month to protest the song "Smack My Bitch Up," and call for a single standard in lyrics: Women and girls must not be subject to the slander and humiliation that would not be directed at an ethnic group such as Jews, Italians, or any other group, including men.

Joined by Girls Speak Out Co-Founder Andrea Johnson, Susan Brownmiller, author of *Against Our Will*, and Anne Connors, President of the New York City Chapter of the National Organization for Women, and other women activists, the group made a Christmas Eve parade of the Warner "Beverly Hills" song to the tune of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" informing holiday shoppers of their intention to stop buying Time-Warner products which are harmful to women. After making a press statement, stating their objections, the group entered the Time-Warner reception desk, but were refused entry to personally present

Gerald Levin, CEO of Time-Warner with letters detailing their concerns. The letter was led with Mr. Levin's assistant who coordinated the security and police barrier.

The letter stated, "As women leaders who represent all women—white women and women of color, we call upon you as CEO and Time-Warner to take leadership and disavow a role as a merchant of violence and racism." The group has vowed to continue its effort to stop the corporate-sponsored attack on women as an issue of good corporate citizenship and racism. C. Delores Tucker, who contacted Mr. Levin on behalf of the group, "We still wish to meet with Mr.

Levin in a spirit of cooperation.

Failing a constructive meeting, other actions will be planned."

This protest developed out of the refusal of Mr. Levin to meet with these leaders to discuss their concerns about the song, "Smack My Bitch Up," by Prodigy. The group had twice requested a meeting. The single, which has received poor reviews by major music critics, recently was certified "platinum" based on the Time Warner promotion. It includes only two lines (Charge my bitch up / Smack my bitch up.) repeatedly voiced against a backdrop of punctuated "techno" music.

Mr. Levin refused to meet with

the group, saying that the appropriate focus was the Warner Bros. subsidiary. The women's coalition apologized to Time-Warner because the key issue is corporate responsibility and practices, not an isolated song. Their letter to Mr. Levin stated that "What links this song to corporate policy is the link to Gangsta Rap. While Time-Warner has sought to disassociate from Gangsta Rap, what remains consistent is the attack against women and the promotion of drugs and violence. As the number one entertainment company, Time-Warner must set the standard."

Car salesman wins \$330,000 discrimination suit

By Theresa Caldwell
Special to the NNPA

WILMINGTON, Del.—An attorney for a former Delaware car salesman has won a \$330,000 discrimination suit.

The office of Richard R. Wier, Jr., attorney of Joe Spruill said Spruill was "very, very devastated" by the damage award. Wier plans to seek a new trial to increase the relatively low damage award, a spokesperson said.

An all-White, nine-person jury took four hours to reach a verdict ordering the Winner Group to pay \$25,000 in punitive damages. It finally awarded \$50,000 in compensatory damages to Spruill after being sent back to deliberate, when it failed to provide any monetary award. It had decided Dec. 15 that a hostile racial climate may have existed at the largest auto dealership in the state, but that was not the reason a former African-American employee left the company.

Spruill sued the Winner Group claiming two managers at Winner Ford of Dover called him names like "Chocolate," "Nigger" and "Mighty Joe Young" and one of them told him to "Kiss my hand and say 'White man is God'."

Spruill's lawsuit also claimed that in addition to racial slurs directed at him from managers Steven Snyder and Frank Fitzwater, racist comments about him were made in front of White customers. Spruill also said Snyder made statements about African-American customers such as

"Chocolates were deadbeats," and "I make so much more on these Chocolates because they're so dumb." Spruill said these and other incidents created a hostile work environment during most of his January 1992 through May 1993 employment with the firm.

Meanwhile, Winner Group spokeswoman Monica Wecker said, "We feel vindicated by the court's decision, and by the relatively modest amount of damages awarded."

Especially discriminatory practices are entirely inconsistent with our company's human resources philosophy, and absolutely contrary to the policies by which we operate each of the Winner companies." She added that, "The management team never engaged in the incident is not involved with the company."

According to Spruill, he was Salesman of the Month for February, March and April of 1992. But in May when Snyder became a manager with the power to approve sales, the harassment began. Spruill said he made other Winner managers aware of the situation, but the harassment continued until he felt he had to leave, but to quit in May of 1993.

A psychologist testified that since the Winner situation, Spruill has suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and has been seeking a former state attorney general who wrote Delaware's Child Abuse Reporting Act, described Spruill as a passive man who provided for his family and simply "internalized it and tried to endure it because he was hoping it would stop."

Elections sure to maintain Clinton in 1998

By Jim Lobe
Special to the NNPA from IPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (IPS)—President Bill Clinton faces a difficult year in 1998, especially because many of the foreign policy targets he set in 1997 remain uncompleted or are in peril. With relations with Russia, the Arab world and China appear to have stabilized, the stalemate in the Arab-Israeli peace process and continuing defiance by President Saddam Hussein will make the Middle East a prime candidate for trouble in 1998.

Asian financial crisis also raises major questions about how Washington will react to a new Asian export drive, and demands for more bailout money. The loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in the region could lead to political instability in some key countries, such as Indonesia, which may in turn present unpredictable challenges to U.S. policy and interests there.

Clinton also faces major struggles here at home in gaining Congressional support for top-priority initiatives which lawmakers rejected last year.

The fact that 1998 is an election year in Congress will no doubt limit his room to maneuver on all these issues by making the task of fashioning bipartisan majorities far more difficult. It also means that well-funded and -organized interest groups will have more political clout than usual.

Moreover, the fact that Clinton's Democratic Party remains deeply in debt from the 1996 election campaign further erodes his ability to persuade reluctant lawmakers to back him on controversial policies. That could have a major impact on a number of initiatives which Clinton had hoped to have settled during the past year.

In the Middle East, for example, Clinton had clearly wanted to obtain a substantial Israeli pullback from the still-occupied West Bank and thus restore momentum to the Oslo peace process. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu effectively froze the process last March, spurning Washington's calls to lay out plans for Israeli withdrawals and seeking Palestinian and Arab anger.

The impasse now not only jeopardizes the Oslo accord, but also Washington's position in the Arab world, as was demonstrated by

Clinton's abrupt failure to rally Asian leaders behind him during Saddam Hussein's latest challenge to end the seven-year-old U.N. sanctions regime against Iraq. As a result, both the peace process and Saddam's defiance have now landed at the top of Clinton's agenda for 1998. Indeed, many analysts believe that President Yasser Arafat will be among the very first foreign leaders to visit the White House in the new year.

But the question in 1998 is whether Clinton can summon up the will to apply serious pressure on Netanyahu, especially in the January when lawmakers will be looking as much for campaign help to win powerful "Israel Lobby" sales to the White House. "It's clear that Netanyahu's game has been to stall as long as possible," says one Congressional aide. "That strategy could earn dividends next (1998) year."

A similar logic applies to policy toward Russia. Clinton has waged a damaging fight with the European Union over a law that penalizes foreign firms which invest in Russia. The law, which lawmakers, eager to show their toughness against ayatollahs, will press for the imposition of sanctions. The result may be a major diplomatic headache for Clinton and increased U.S. isolation in the Gulf in 1998.

While many here believe Clinton will gain bipartisan backing for enlarging NATO and extending U.S. participation of the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia, Congress and the elections loom large over other initiatives considered top priority by his administration.

Fast-track authority, which ensures that Congress cannot spend new trade orders once they are negotiated, is a major goal of the administration, which counts the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement among its greatest achievements. Clinton has argued that Washington's future in an age of economic globalization will rely increasingly on exports to emerging markets. The administration has pushed for "fast-track" withdrawals and ratification of three of four Democrats in the House of Representatives, however, opposed Clinton's 1997 request because it does not include strong protection for labor rights and the environment.

Lou Rawls, Louis Gossett Jr., Alfie Woodard, Debbie Allen to host 'An Evening of Stars'

FAIRFAX, VA.—The United Negro College Fund (The College Fund) has named Lou Rawls, Louis Gossett Jr., Alfie Woodard and Debbie Allen to serve as co-hosts along with lead co-host Lou Rawls, for their newly formatted annual television broadcast "An Evening of Stars-A Celebration of Educational Excellence" scheduled to air on January 10, on WPTX Channel 17 from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. and on Black Entertainment Television (BET) from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

To highlight the essential work UNCF does in providing minority scholarships to its member institutions, they are introducing a new four-hour format to feature extended concert performances by some of the music industry's top artists including: Toni Braxton, Teena Marie, CeCe Winans, AZ Yet, Mase featuring Funky Bunch, The Chantays, Vanessa L. Williams, Luther Vandross, The Delis, Ziggy Marley and the Melody Masters, Kenny Lattimore, Sinbad, Jerry Butler, The O'Jays, Kool and the Gang featuring James Taylor.

The United Negro College Fund is singularly focused on helping deserving and talented students obtain a college education. We are excited about the new format as it will strengthen our capacity to convey our message to a broader audience and ultimately generate the need to increase and improve access to higher education for financially disadvantaged young men and women," said William H. Gray, III, President and CEO, United Negro College Fund.

Marie, CeCe Winans, AZ Yet, Mase featuring Funky Bunch, The Chantays, Vanessa L. Williams, Luther Vandross, The Delis, Ziggy Marley and the Melody Masters, Kenny Lattimore, Sinbad, Jerry Butler, The O'Jays, Kool and the Gang featuring James Taylor.



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TELEVISION Your involvement is important

The year 1997 saw the New Jersey African American community making news on many fronts. Some of the news made this past year is very promising for 1998. Locally, in three of our largest communities, Black men with a record of achieving results were elected as mayors. Decent, affordable housing is being built at the grass roots level. Crime is down, and the spirit of volunteerism and entrepreneurship is up.

These instances of progress are not maintained with the input of the citizens. Now, more than ever, it is important for us to be community-active. Your time and your interest is more valuable than money; your voice and your active involvement will help to bring about change. This is the challenge we face this year: change has begun, in order to keep it going, the involvement of the local citizen is the bedrock of making a community livable, productive and safe.

Most anyone is able to affect some change. To paraphrase a well-known saying: If you don't become involved, you can't complain.

Speaker Gingrich Lacks Courage to Eliminate Racial Preferences

"Repeat Affirmative Action Now!"

screamed the headline of an article by Ward Connerly, the man primarily responsible for California's passage of the controversial Proposition 209, which ended racial preferences state-wide. Connerly argues that now is the perfect time for opponents of racial preferences to make their voices heard. It is not too late. Ever since President Clinton's speech calling for support of racial preferences, Connerly has been on the floor of Congress decrying the practice, and polls have come out showing widespread disapproval. To quote Connerly, "If the President's opponents are unable to capitalize on this opportunity, there are only two words to describe them: politically inept." Unfortunately, however, there are those who are still afraid to stand up against preferences, and Speaker Newt Gingrich is among them.

The Speaker's lack of leadership on this issue is shown in his handling of the Civil Rights Act of 1997, a bill by Rep. Charles Canady (R-IL) which would have ended sex preferences at the federal level. While Speaker Gingrich currently supports the bill, his support has wavered in coming, and is hesitant at best. After much cajoling from Ward Connerly and others, the Speaker finally came out in favor of the Canady bill in mid-November. His support, however, has been nominal, as the Speaker has done little to push the bill's progress forward, and has refused to commit to bringing the bill to a vote on the floor of the House. The Speaker's reluctance would be acceptable if it were based on principle,

but it clearly is not. Gingrich is in principle fully in favor of the idea of ending racial preferences. He remains hesitant, though, due to great political pressure. He has been under intense racial preferences would be inflammatory and detrimental to the Republican party's attempts to recruit minority voters.

Racial preferences have little support among Americans, are morally questionable, and are not supported by Connerly, who himself opposes preferences, who has not taken a firm stand on the issue politically. He has, along with about 40 congressmen and senators, referred to as a National Planning Committee. As an outgrowth of the Black Caucus conference was called in the Summer of 1997 in Atlanta, Georgia, more than 3,000 people of African ancestry attended this meeting. It was at this meeting that a resolution

Ryan Sager is a Research Association with the National Center for Public Policy Research, a non-profit educational foundation in Washington, DC.

If the issue is Race, What About the White People?

By William Reaves

The President's year long foray on race has been conspicuously lacking one thing, the opinions of White people. And it appears that may be one of the strategies of forum organizers. However, on Dec. 18, 1997 at the meeting in North Virginia of the President's Advisory Board on the issue, one White man broke the silence.

After listening to a lengthy discussion, primarily shadowboxing around the issue of affirmative action, Robert Hoy, a White photographer from Virginia, had his chance to speak.

Mr. Hoy, 42, took his turn at the microphone and got down to business. "There's no one up there that's talking about the White people!" Hoy shouted. "We don't want to be a minority in our own country!"

There was a smattering of boos and jeers, as everyone in the audience detected that something was about to happen. Within moments a police officer (one source said he was a secret service agent), escorted Hoy out of the building because it was felt that his comments were "disrupting" the event. Several White and non-White audience members, including reporters, followed him out the door. And that is where the real debate took place. Hoy expressed what I suspect was genuine concern that his privilege of Whiteness was being overshadowed by the increasing number of, and, for that matter, the issues. I also suspect that Hoy's vocal challenge and questioning is the view shared by many White people.

The President has been open and honest discussion on race, and warned us that the "hard" questions need to be answered. He also predicted that there would be offended. Indeed, given that counter-

racial logic says that in order to have a serious discussion on racism/White supremacy, White people must be offended, and non-White people must not be, Hoy's speech exit was perplexing, though sadly predictable.

The question must be asked, why did Hoy get escorted out? Was the President's forum on race, given that the constitution is generally interpreted to allow for free speech?

What about the presence of other White people who share this perspective is essential if the "hard" questions are to be answered. Questions like: What about the White people who don't want to be a minority in this country? Who are they? What do they want? What say they have to settle for? Can any progress be made without settling the concerns of White people who want to insure a future for their White posterity?

I predict that in the aftermath many people will try to divert, deny, subvert or confuse the central issue of these questions. I suspect that these subversive people will be White and White supremacists and others may be non-White people who are uncomfortable about having a direct discussion with White people about the motivation for White supremacy.

However, these are questions that responsible "Black" people should ask of their so-called White and Black friends. If we are not willing to stand up and engage with the people in police political dialogue, how can we ever hope to synthesize a solution to racism?

William Reaves is a freelance writer from the Washington, D.C. area who frequently writes on racism/White supremacy.

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

The question that still faces the African American community in America is what are the best methods for us to achieve Black Political Power. (I often remain readers of this column to find out the answers to the question—when, where, and most important of all, how.)

Since 1966, when Kwame Ture (formerly known as Stokely Carmichael) made his pronouncement that "what African people in America needed to survive was Black Power," the dynamics of Black politics in America shifted drastically.

It has been over 31 years since Kwame made this call for Black Power in June of 1966. Today there are more than 8,000 Black elected officials in the United States that include more than 40 congressmen and congresswomen, a U.S. Senator, more than 400 Black mayors and host of state senators and state representatives, and numerous local elected officials in a variety of electoral and appointed political positions.

When Claydon Clay in 1966 led to the organizing of the first Black Power Conference that was convened on Saturday, September 10, 1966 at Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C. The session was called by the late, great, Congressman James Farmer and was generally referred to as a National Planning Committee.

As an outgrowth of the Black Caucus conference was called in the Summer of 1970 in Atlanta, Georgia, more than 3,000 people of African ancestry attended this meeting. It was at this meeting that a resolution

was adopted that a political structure be established to create a National Black Political Convention.

This historic First National Black Political Convention took place in Gary, Indiana in March of 1972. More than 8,000 Black people from every state participated in this historic gathering.

The follow-up from this convention structure called the National Black Political Assembly which was to continue permanently after the convention. Additionally, it was the aim of the Assembly "to develop a new Black Politics and organize the National Black Political Agenda" that was established at the convention.

As we prepare for the upcoming political season, we should keep these fundamental truths in our minds as we continue to seek the acquisition of Black Political Power. We must also be reminded that in the Mission Statement of the Million Man March, we committed ourselves to the "follow-up development of an expanded Black political agenda and the holding of a Black Political Convention to forge this agenda for progressive political change."

We must stop selling the Black vote to white political interest that don't benefit the masses of our people and the Black people in America. To truly acquire political power, we must develop true independent strategies apart from the Democratic Party. If African people in America are to truly acquire political power, this should be clear to all by now!

Dr. Conrad Worrill is the National Chairman of the National Front

The Racial Imaging Issue - An Update

By Harry C. Alford

I want to sincerely thank all of the Black newspapers who ran my article entitled "Goodyear tires are as Strong as a Black Man." The article dealt with stereotypical advertising and the advertising support of television shows. The advertisement was placed in the nation of Peru. Friends of ours were having trouble getting this story out to the American public. We did it for the Black community. The article was published in the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

As the story unfolded from city to city, the whole nation saw it. WWOR television in New York City ran two shows about the matter. Inside Edition was running it shortly. Wall Street Journal, and many other "mainstream" media are now reporting on the matter. Even the traditional civil rights organizations which previously ignored the pleas of our friends (just like they did in the early stages of the Texaco controversy) have now started to report on it.

Goodyear Tire Co. has apologized. The advertising agency that promoted the Goodyear commercial no longer works for Goodyear. Goodyear has issued apologies to many organizations and has pledged to be more vigilant and sensitive to the needs of the community. We have been the intended shadowed. I hope Goodyear does not give them a penny.

The other corporation that has responded with proper leadership is Procter & Gamble. As a former employee of this corporate giant, I can personally attest to the sincerity of the response. We received a copy of an internal memo written by a senior level manager to all "key U.S. cities." He was alerting to a 25-page report to the upcoming public exposure. He said Procter & Gamble had been sponsoring television shows in South

America that were not suitable and, in fact, racist. After reviewing the matter, Procter & Gamble will no longer support such shows and has immediately discontinued advertising—significantly reducing the company. He apologized to the employees and assured them that the mistake will not be repeated.

We have partially met our objective. (Two companies, Goodyear and Procter & Gamble, have ceased support of racial stereotyping in advertising.) It's time for Chevrolet/Rund, Nabsco, Brands/RJR, Shell Oil, PepsiCo and Quaker Oats to do the same. Why haven't they?

As we investigated this matter, we found that Peru has a significant number of Black citizens. Brazil, Columbia, Venezuela has a significant number of African descent and there are noticeable numbers in surrounding nations. The United States has a significant number of African descent and there are noticeable numbers in surrounding nations. These are the people who are being discriminated against. These are the people who are being discriminated against. These are the people who are being discriminated against.

Thanks is also due to WWOR television, Guy Broward of the Interfaith Center for Policy Studies, the Maming Marable, Professor, Columbia University, and Dr. J. Edgar Moore, President of the American Democracy, who have organized this effort without their input.

Again, thank you Black press. Information is power and you have again demonstrated the proper use of that power. Racism anywhere is racism everywhere. Through you we will fight and win it whenever and wherever it rears its ugly head.

Harry C. Alford is President/CEO, National Black Chamber of Commerce

Maintaining The Rule Of Law despite outside pressures

By William S. Sessions

In the media spotlight of high public interest trials, such as the Massachusetts pair case where all parties issued multiple statements, day in and day out, and people picketed outside the Cambridge courthouse, it is important to remember the true role of the court and the judge who presides over the trial.

The true role of the judge is not to be a participant in a media circus, a show in entertainment and then clicks to another channel. The true role of a judge is to be reduced to a 25-minute sound bite on the evening news. Rather, the true role of a trial or appellate judge is to uphold the rule of law and ensure that justice is done. This principle is at the core of our democracy. This is critically serious business that is the duty of the judge to protect the rights of all participants in a trial as well as the public interest.

The judicial process requires time to unfold. It is a deliberative, thoughtful, designed to ensure that all issues are carefully weighed and considered. It is designed to produce the truth. Without this careful and deliberate process, under the rule of law, the strong fabric that binds Americans

from the National Rainbow Coalition newsletter

Back in the days when rock-and-roll tested the Doves, a serious, jobs program (Johnny Rivers sang movingly of life among the dispossessed: "Girl, it's hard to find nice things, on the poor side of town.")

We all know the story (though if you have never heard it, Jackson delivered his own special sermon on the birth of Jesus, your life is definitely incomplete).

An unemployed carpenter. An unmarried mother. On the road, away from home, turned away at the inn. Born without health insurance, surrounded by animals in a stable, not a doctor in sight. Condemned by the authorities, targeted for capital punishment by Herod, the reigning conservative. Jesus, the liberator, came to free the slave, redempt the prodigal, save the lost sheep.

Of course, these days we would be treated to the spectacle of William Bennett and Dan Quayle lecturing Mary about the virtues of married life. The AMA would spin Jesus's birth to try to demonstrate that we really don't need "socialized medicine" for everyone. And George W. Bush and Al Gore would no doubt explain to us that Jesus's rise from a lowly stable to the "Prince of Peace" proves that all can pull themselves up by their bootstraps. If only they would try harder. Or as Reverend Jackson phrases it (an almost every public speech he's given in 1997): "The problem is not on welfare; they work every day. Most poor people are not Black or poor. They're White, female, and 2/3 are children."

Unfortunately, the policy-makers passed last year's "welfare reform" law to fix this problem by creating more such According to an esti-

mated by the Urban Institute, the new welfare law may increase the number of children in poverty by up to 1.1 million.

Behind the scenes, various jobs programs the sarcasm that Senator Ted Kennedy used to President Reagan will also apply to welfare reform: "Ronald Reagan must realize that the only help he's helped make so many more of them."

The Columbia study points out that young children in poverty are more likely:

- to be born at low birth weight;
- to be hospitalized during childhood;
- to die in infancy or early childhood;
- to receive lower-quality medical care;
- to experience hunger or malnutrition;
- to experience high levels of conflict in their own homes;
- to be confronted by violence and environmental hazards;
- to experience harmful delays physical, cognitive, linguistic, and emotional development.

Juan Palmer, one of the supervisors in that study, flatly: "Six million in poverty during these critical years ought to be a real wake-up call for the nation."

Perhaps the Gambino family will buy these six million more babies. McElmo "dod" the media would find that a newsworthy story.

Apparently the fact of massive child one-sixth in the midst of our unparalleled national wealth, is not newsworthy Welcome back, baby, to the poor side of town.

Steve Cobble is the Editor of the National Rainbow Coalition newsletter.

The Racial Realities Don't Want To Hear

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

From the moment that President Clinton announced his race initiative program, Newt Gingrich and other conservatives in the White House have been quick to include conservatives in the dialogue. Clinton got the message. Before the Akron Town Hall meeting in early December, he said he would listen to what conservatives like Ward Connerly had to say. While I agree that conservatives should be included in Clinton's dialogue, my guess is that the sum of their contribution will be to paw off Brown the history of racism and stereotypes and slanders about African Americans.

The nub of their argument is that White people are sick and tired of Blacks blame racism, economic inequality, and an unjust criminal justice system for their failures. But these are the realities that many conservatives don't want to hear. The majority of violent crime in America comes from the streets of inner cities of drug users and abusers are White. The majority of welfare recipients and poor are White. Society is sick and tired of "Living with Racism," has thoroughly documented the sneaky storehouse of racist dogmas and tactics many bankers, corporate officials, real estate lenders, hotels, restaurants, and cab drivers still use to perpetuate racism and discrimination.

The prisons are increasingly jammed with poor, young Blacks due to draconian drug laws that target African Americans. The U.S. Sentencing Commission pointed to the blatant inequity in the criminal justice system when it recommended that the harsh sentences handed out for drug possession to Black offenders and the light hand slap sentences given to White offenders be modified or equalized.

And what are the job prospects for those Blacks when they are

released from prison? A study by the California Commission on the Status of the Black Male in 1996 revealed that one-sixth of California's 625,000 Black males age 16 and older were arrested yearly and concluded that the high rates of incarceration are police records which hinder their job prospects."

In 1996, according to the National Urban League's State of Black America report, 80 percent of African Americans graduated from high school and nearly 30 percent enrolled in college (many from historically Black colleges). Contrary to popular belief, the high school dropout rate for African Americans was no greater than for Whites.

The bad news is that many Blacks who want college degrees are losing ground. Since 1994 funding cuts, elimination of scholarships, grants and financial assistance, and the pulverizing of affirmative action have badly thinned the ranks of Blacks and Latinos admitted to medical and law schools at several universities. University of California campus. While conservatives lecture Blacks to get an education and solve their own problems, they are sowing seeds about segregation and the gaping funding shortfalls that keep ghetto schools underfunded and poor.

Other than a few highly publicized and anecdotal cases of Whites complaining about losing their jobs to a minority with no skills, there is no shred of evidence that Whites are being displaced in mass by minorities. Now that they've gotten their wish to live with racism and economic inequality, they pretend no longer exist.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of "The Assassination of the Black Male Image."

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

NEW YORK—New York University will have a seminar on Investment Banking, asset management, etc., from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in Midtown Center, room 413. For more info, call 212-790-1320.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

NEW YORK—New York University will have a seminar on Commodities Trading at Midtown Center, room 419 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info, call 212-790-1321.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

NEWARK—More than 30 non-credit courses ranging from algebra to learning how to start a small business to computer classes will be offered through the department's Self Study Program. For more info, call 973-877-3054.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

EAST ORANGE—The first Black business appreciation networking party will be held at the Renaissance Lounge at 5:30 p.m. For more info, call 732-740-7625.

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

NEW YORK—New York University will have a seminar on Foreign Exchange and Risk Mgt. At Midtown Center, room 419 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more info, call 212-790-1321.

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College offers a graduate course for Bayonne, Jersey City, and North Bergen teachers via interactive television technology this spring. Helping Exceptional Children and Youth in the Regular Classroom. For more info, call 201-200-3449.

NEW YORK—New York University will have a seminar on Financial Planning at Midtown Center, room 421 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more info, call 212-790-1321.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

ELIZABETH—A one day seminar on basic supervision for anyone who supervises people at the Holiday Inn Express. To register, call 1-800-821-3919.

NEW YORK—New York University will have a diploma program in credit analysis at Midtown Center, room 413 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more info, call 212-790-1320.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

NEW YORK—New York University will have a seminar on "Investment Strategy: Finance, Trade, and Traffic in Midtown Center, room 421 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more info, call 212-790-1320.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

FAIRFIELD—A one-day seminar on how to be a better buyer, for purchase agents, supervisors, office managers, will be held at the Radisson Hotel and Suites. To register, call 1-800-821-3919.

Targeting black women as your customer base

By Pierre A. Clark

African-American women are the major economic force in the \$398 billion African-American community, based on U.S. Census Bureau statistics. They are 60 percent of the population, 70 percent of the college graduates, 60 percent of the African-American managerial work force, live nearly a decade longer on average than Black men and control 70 percent of the inherited wealth. If you are an African-American woman who wants to be an entrepreneur (or you are a male owning a business selling to African-American consumers), and your message and selling strategies do not incorporate the desires, aspirations and motivations of African-American women, your marketing campaign will very likely fail.

The successes of movies like "Boyz n the City," "Love Jones," "Soul Food" and "Set It Off" are testament to the economic power of African-American women. Studies indicate they are the major decision makers in determining which cars are purchased by African-American families, where African-American families live, what movies and concerts they attend, what clothes they buy, where they shop for groceries, and the direction of most other life decisions. The singing book sales of African-American female authors like Terry McMillan, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Toni Cade Bambara, Octavia Butler and others, replicates the potent influence of African-American women on African-American culture, art, and entertainment spending choices.

All the documented impact of African-American women in the \$398 billion African-American economy is being noticed by strategists at major corporations and media companies, who are designing campaigns and developing media vehicles targeted to African-American women.

There are at least ten national publications targeted to African-American women. Among them are: Heart and Soul, Black Elegance, Essence, Upscale, Sophisticates Guide To Black Hair Style and Sister 2 Sister. Besides these, African-American women are also major subscribers to elite general-market fashion and women's services magazines: Vogue, Mademoiselle, Glamour, Seventeen, W, Redbook, Good Housekeeping, People, Newsweek, Us and New Woman, among dozens of others.

Study shows business loan bias

By Dana Dangerfield
Special to the NNPA From The Chicago Defender

A history of ineffectively distributing loans to low-income neighborhoods among some banks in Chicago, Ill., may have gotten worse. According to a recent study, small business loans were eight times harder to come by in poor communities throughout Chicago in 1996, than in other areas.

"Low income neighborhoods aren't getting their share of small business loans," said Ed Wang, lead organizer for Chicago Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN).

The report, released by ACORN, said one out of every eight loans in Chicago is directed towards businesses in upper income communities. And for every dollar that is given to business owners in low-income areas,

\$11.64 is given to those in high-income communities.

"We have a group of lenders that are completely ignoring the needs of people in low-income neighborhoods," Wang said. "Anybody can take a walk around Englewood and see what's happening in the community."

Banded up storefronts and vacant lots frequently line the streets of Chicago's low-income communities. Residents often walk or drive miles, bypassing their neighborhoods, in order to find a store to buy their weekly groceries.

According to the study, potential entrepreneurs in such areas, who lack to revitalize the neighborhoods have the odds stacked against them. Small business loans are hard to get for people who want to rebuild in low-income areas.

"They're not receiving the money

they need to attract jobs and small businesses," Wang said. "That's why a lot of these communities continue to be left out economically."

He also said that banks continuously ignore the industries in rundown areas.

"It's a long history of discrimination within the banking industry," Wang said.

A couple of months ago, ACORN issued another study showing that potential home-buyers in low-income neighborhoods haven't received their fair share of home loans in past years.

"Banks are completely out of touch with what's happening in the low-income community," Wang said.

In order to rectify the problem, the study suggested that small business loan requirement be improved.

"You can't use the same type of standards that you would use in a high-income community," Wang said.

Maybe you are just a late bloomer

By William Reed

Tiger Woods is 21 and is worth multi-millions. Jeff Bezos, 33, who founded Internet bookstore Amazon.com is in his second successful career and has personal wealth exceeding \$500 million. These rich young Turks show that if you've got enough heart and initiative you've still got time to gain the kind of money and impact you've dreamed about. Take heart, and illustration, from other late bloomers and go ahead to make your move.

Amazon's first Black female millionaire, Madame C.J. Walker, was 34 when she took her black beauty products national. By age 43, in the 1920s, Walker was a millionaire and had 25,000 black women in her employ making over a \$1,000 a week. Famous P.T. Barnum was a showman, broke and unemployed when he founded the Greatest Show on Earth.

Fredrick Ford is another epic story of hanging tough. He made his fortune late in life, lost it, regained it, and lost and won it again. At 32 he went bankrupt during the War of 1812 when an embargo ruined his West Indies ice exporting enterprise. He pawed his way out of debtor's prison, built an icehouse in New York, and then a new shipping line. Ice, Tudor introduced cold drinks to Cuba and expanded into the U.S. South - thanks to his ice the mint julep was invented. Rich by 50, five years later he was back in prison for debt, having lost his fortune in a coffee venture. It took 14 years for him to repay creditors, but he did and returned to the ice business, and died fabulously wealthy at age 80.

At age 52, Ray Kroc, the McDonald's man was still a traveling milk-shake machine salesman. Hawking Prince Castle Multimilkers, Kroc scored the nation's fast-foods selling wars to restaurants, diners, and soda fountains. In 1954 he stood outside a burger stand

in San Bernardino, watching what he called, "The most amazing merchandising operation," he'd ever seen: a pair of Goettsches. With a business plan, customers staking back on a hundred feet. Kroc opened his first McDonald's in 1955. Having seen dozens of failed and failing franchise operations in his travels, Kroc knew what not to do. The company Kroc nurtured into the world's largest purveyor of potatoes and ground beef went public in 1965, when he was 63.

Another example of building a successful business late in life was Sam Walton, a small town merchant who gained market-knowledge and savvy dealing with bargain-hungry customers in underdeveloped areas. This helped him conceive discount giant Wal-Mart. The first of which opened in 1962 when he was 44. In 1991, Wal-Mart surpassed Sears as the nation's leading retailer when Walton was 73 and still involved with the company's daily operations.

Mary Kay Ash was already 45 before she became queen of the direct-sales empire known as Mary Kay Cosmetics. With a business pattern much like that of Madame C.J. Walker, at 73, Mary Kay Ash became the first woman to own a company listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Her company has a network of 400,000 women who hawk wares.

Indeed, people who start out with few wrinkles may have something that young Turks lack: hard-earned experience, ambition tempered by knowledge and the patience that comes with life's travails. What they need is incentive, guidance and direction. Fortunes are garnered through innovation and information. There's still a multitude of opportunities in America, all that's needed is to take charge and advantage of them is the will and way.

Precedent-setting partnership



Dr. Jerry Lee, at left, vice president and provost, Thomas Edison State College, and Susan Matkov, district manager, Business

Process Management, AT&T School of Business and Technology, shake on the signing of the precedent-setting partnership agreement between AT&T and the College. The agreement will result in the continuation of high-quality education for AT&T's employees at a lower cost to the corporation. AT&T's employees get advanced standing toward their degrees at Thomas Edison State College. The College's Education (ACE) evaluations. Currently, AT&T has 300 employees enrolled at the College.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES, TIMES AND PLACES OF MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PASSAIC.

DATE	TIME	PLACE
Wed., Jan. 21, 1998	7:00 P.M.	45 Aspen Recreational Room
Wed., Feb. 18, 1998	7:00 P.M.	299 Gregory Avenue
Wed., Mar. 18, 1998	7:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers 330 Passaic Street
Wed., Apr. 15, 1998	7:00 P.M.	14-34 East Monroe Street
Tues. May 19, 1998	7:00 P.M.	203 Sixth Street
Wed., June 17, 1998	7:00 P.M.	45 Aspen Recreational Room
Wed., July 15, 1998	7:00 P.M.	234 Chestnut Street
Wed., Sep. 16, 1998	7:00 P.M.	203 Sixth Street
Wed., Oct. 21, 1998	7:00 P.M.	299 Gregory Avenue
Wed., Nov. 18, 1998	7:00 P.M.	234 Chestnut Street
Wed., Dec. 16, 1998	7:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers 330 Passaic Street

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

continued from page 2

The Board of Public Utilities reached an agreement with Bell Atlantic and two other groups to link all of the State's schools and libraries to an advanced electronic network. The \$76-million settlement will pay particular attention to those districts identified as disadvantaged by the Abbott v. Burke funding decision.

The reign of Mobutu is over in Zaire

Dr. Lenora Fulani discusses the chaos in power in the African country of Zaire and speculates whether dictator Mobutu Sese Seko will live to see himself ousted or by Laurent Kabila's rebel forces, or die of cancer first.

Utility high exec dead of gunshot to head

Dianna Green, 51, vice president for human resources for Duquesne Light Company, apparently killed herself with a gunshot to the head. She was regarded as one of the brightest black female stars of the business world.

May 13

CITY NEWS HONORS 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL

Reflective of the many facets that make up New Jersey, 100 of the best of the best in their professions were honored during the City News Second Annual 100 Most Influential Awards. Among those honored were PSEO General President Al Koppke, who received the City News Award for Outstanding Achievement in municipal service, and journalist Tony Brown, who received the Outstanding Achievement award.

Eddie Murphy stopped by deputies, transvestite prostitute arrested

Entertainer Eddie Murphy said he was just trying to be a nice guy when he picked up a cross-dressing male prostitute at an over-the-hill male's domicile looked on.

May 20

Alexis Herman confirmed

The Senate confirmation of Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman was hailed as appropriate, fully justified and long overdue by the Black Leadership Forum, Inc.

Elected officials show support of postal workers amid rape hoax

The vice president of the North Jersey Area Local American Postal Workers Union met with the Staff of Senator Frank Lautenberg's staff to discuss the issue of a white female courtroom deputy who confessed to fabricating a sexual assault by an African American employee at the Main Post Office in Newark.

Hundreds mourn the death of "Queen Mother" Mom

The funeral of Audley "Queen Mother" Moore drew political leaders as diverse as Minister Louis Farrakhan and Congressman James Rangel. The 98-year-old civil rights activist, who died after being in a coma since January, worked on a variety of political causes, and was initially inspired into activism by a speech made by Marcus Garvey in the 1920s.

May 27

Justice Department investigates police beating of "Frvknick" motorist

Officials of the Justice Department assured the Southern Christian Leadership Conference that a full investigation was underway in the April beating of Timmy Sinclair of Atlanta by as many as five police officers during the annual Spring Break festivities for Black college students. The incident, which was videotaped, shows that Sinclair did not strike back.

Newark teachers seek justice in fraud implication

A federal lawsuit has been filed by twenty Newark teachers and school employees who were implicated, but not yet charged, in a \$3.5 million dollar insurance fraud scheme. A psychologist placed under duress to billing 36 insurance carriers for therapy sessions that never took place.

Sales growth of top black-owned businesses slows

In a report from Black Enterprise Magazine, the growth of black-owned businesses experience a decline of growth over the previous year. The report speculates that the slower growth is due to the backlash against affirmative action programs.

June

Widow of Malcolm X severely injured. President apologizes. Manville called "Klanville." Rice fight for citizens right to speak. Dr. Samuel Proctor dies. Rally for "Strawberry." Geromino Pratt freed. Pregnant Newark woman killed by police.

Some of the news for the week ending...

June 3

Clinton apologizes to Tuskegee survivors

President Clinton issued a formal apology on behalf of the Federal government to the survivors of the

Public Health Service Study conducted in Macon County, Alabama involving people who were injected with syphilis and then left untreated for decades.

Democratic gubernatorial race: The candidates and the issues

A Congressman, a former Morris county prosecutor and the Mayor of Woodbridge all have an eye towards becoming the next Democratic Governor of New Jersey.

Whitman honors 12 Work First New Jersey corporate partners

Twelve corporations that will make more than 7,000 private sector jobs available to welfare recipients were honored by Gov. Christine Whitman for their involvement in the "Work First New Jersey" program.

June 10

Manville residents fight hate

With the persons of color moving into the central Jersey town of Manville, incidents of racial harassment have been intensified to the point that they are looking to build an organization that will combat the racism that has been going on in this town, nicknamed "Klanville" for many years.

Rice vows to sponsor court legislation

Newark Councilman Ronald Rice believes that city residents are being denied their rights by the City Council because of an ordinance that disallows the citizen's hearing portion of the bi-monthly public municipal council meetings. "The ordinance prohibits residents from expressing their concerns at public meetings," Rice said in a letter to Mayor Sharpe James.

Dr. Sam Proctor dies in Iowa

Professor emeritus at Rutgers University, The Reverend Samuel Proctor, 76, died at Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He was a prominent leader in one of America's foremost black preachers. Dr. Proctor suffered a heart attack on the final day of teaching a course on the Bible at Cornell College in Mount Vernon.

June 17

November showdown: McGreevey vs. Whitman

Mayor James McGreevey narrowly won the Democratic nod to face current Governor Christine Whitman in the November gubernatorial election. McGreevey received 40 percent of the vote in the June primary, his closest opponent, Congressman Rob Andrews, received 37 percent.

June 24

"Double Homicide!"

A planned "Fathers Appreciation Week" rally outside Newark City Hall was cancelled when hundreds of angry residents gathered at the same spot demanding reform of the police department in the wake of the shooting of 31-year-old Danette "Strawberry" Daniels by patrolman Robert Leeds. Daniels, who was pregnant, was shot as her four-year-old son looked on.

Former Black Panther freed on bail

More than a quarter of a century after being accused of a murder he claims he did not commit, the 1972 founder/conviction of former Black Panther Elmer "Geromino" Pratt was overturned and he was released on \$25,000 bail.

Clergy support suspended teachers

The Committee of Black Churchmen gathered to voice their concerns about the dismissal of Newark teachers because of alleged implications in an insurance fraud case. The teachers claim they were wrongly dismissed without a proper hearing, while teachers in other school districts alleged to also have taken part in the fraud still have their jobs.

July

Dr. Betty Dies. Police rally around killer cop. Tyson beats Holyfield out. City News editor joins mission to Ghana. Plainfield board may sue State. Board of Public Education and school system.

Some of the news for the week ending...

July 1

Dr. Betty Shabazz Succumbs

After a month-long struggle to survive burns over 80 percent of her body, Dr. Betty Shabazz life ended. She underwent skin replacement surgery in her fight for life. One week later, over 2,000 friends, colleagues and admirers paid an affectionate and buoyant farewell to the doctor in a service at Riverside Church.

Shooting Rage Builds

The New Chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police marched to Newark City Hall in support of Officer Robert Leaks, Jr., who was suspended without pay pending an investigation into the fatal shooting

of a pregnant woman. Speakers at the rally denounced a community service group who were protesting the "Zoo Crew" for organizing prior rallies that called for Leaks' arrest.

Owners fined \$1 million for racial discrimination

The owners and managers of New Jersey's largest housing complex, Pleasant View Gardens in Piscataway, agreed to pay nearly \$1 million for allegedly discriminating against African-Americans.

July 8

Tyson's on worse shape than Holyfield's left ear

Associated Press Boxing Writer Ed Schuyler examines the current state of Mike Tyson's boxing career after the bite—oops!—the fight in Las Vegas that left Evander Holyfield with a one-inch chunk out of his right ear.

Senate passes Cohen/Green measure clarifying student strip searches

The State Senate approved legislation to specifically prohibit teachers and other school system personnel from conducting strip searches or body cavity searches of students.

July 15

Court to decide major case on racial bias

A Supreme Court increasingly hostile to racial preferences will hear a teacher firing case in the Piscataway NJ school system. The white teacher was fired to protect an equally qualified Black teacher's job.

Plainfield Board may sue State

In an exclusive interview with City News, Plainfield School Superintendent Larry Leverett is working with the Education Law Center to fight for the city school system to be able to sue the State for "special needs" district.

New evidence to determine trial for Mumie

Supporters of Mumie Abu-Jamal rallied outside Philadelphia City Hall for his freedom while judge Albert Sabo heard new testimony for the case.

Crime down in Newark

A Newark police department report showed an overall drop in crime for 1995 versus 1996. Robbery, burglary and auto theft were among the biggest declines.

July 22

Minister Farrakhan named Imam

At the International Islamic Conference held in Chicago, Nelson of Islam (NOI) minister Louis Farrakhan was named an Imam and a Sheikh, recognizing NOI as part of the mainstream Muslim world.

Kiwans International elects first black president

Walter G. Sellers was unanimously elected president of Kiwans International, a worldwide service organization. Sellers, an African American from Wilberforce, Ohio was a 31-year member past president of a Kiwans Club chapter.

July 29

City News editor joins mission to Ghana

The Global Women's Leadership Collective of New Jersey launched a mission to Ghana "to provide a forum for African-American women leaders of New Jersey to engage in a global dialogue with women and to provide insight in effective change in their own communities. Among the 37 participants in the mission was City News Editor-in-Chief Jan Johnson.

August

Praying in Manville. National Night Out in New Jersey. Plainfield native goes Disney. Plainfield Tennis team ranks first. Plainfield school board files suit. Deregulation explained. A Farrakhan rally. Newark minister leads 50,000. Torricelli supports juvenile justice. Insurance debate heats up.

Some of the news for the week ending...

August 5

Manville prayer march weather storm

Two local churches organized a prayer march in Manville, NJ in response to some residents' concerns that their town has become synonymous with racism. Over 100 persons, many representing other churches and organizations came out in the midst of stormy weather that wrecked havoc in the area.

New Jersey participates in "National Night Out"

Traditionally happening on the first Tuesday in August, several New Jersey municipalities participated in "National Night Out." Newark and Rahway. The anti-crime program seek to build a partnership between police and communities.

August 12

Plainfield parents, school board, file suit against state

Six Plainfield families, suit against the State seeking the inclusion of Plainfield as a "Special Needs," or "Abbot" district to receive equal and additional funding for the city's schools.

Imprisoned Nigerian journalists at risk

Two men imprisoned in Nigeria because of their work as journalists are reported to be in very poor health due to lack of medical attention and harsh prison conditions. Amnesty International considers Ben Chavis, Olu and George Mboah to be prisoners of conscience and has called for their release.

PSE&G head discusses deregulation

While Public Service Electric and Gas will soon be faced with the competition from other utilities because of deregulation, Company president Larry Coughlin urges customers to review all areas of the service before they make any choices and changes.

August 19

Urban League launches youth family community initiative

A coalition of African-American organizations along with the National Urban League launched a nationwide initiative to create infrastructure and supports that better encourage youth to strive for excellence and enable them to achieve at world class standards.

Plainfield Mayor snubs Farrakhan

Mayor Mark Fry rejected a request that Minister Louis Farrakhan was given the key to the city, on a forthcoming visit, saying the coverage of "Being cold-shouldered by an African-American mayor brought bad press" for the leader and the Nation of Islam.

Newark Minister chosen to lead 50,000-NJ Baptists

The North Jersey District Missionary Baptist Association recently elected Rev. Dr. L. Ronald Durham, pastor of the First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Newark as its Moderator. Dr. Durham will serve as the spiritual leader of the 50,000 member, 75 church organization into the year 2001.

August 26

Plainfield schools in fight for

the right to sue the state for funding cuts.

additional funding

One of the most important goals in the acquisition of the increased funding that would come to the Plainfield School System being named a "Special Needs district" is that it will bring technology into the school so students will be able to successfully compete in the areas of employment and higher education.

Farrakhan: Atonement key

Hundreds of followers and supporters turned out to greet Minister Louis Farrakhan in the city of Plainfield during his tour through the area to call for a holy day of atonement for African Americans. Responding to criticism that he was not presented the key to the city by the mayor, he said to the crowd, "I already have the key to the city, I have a bigger key than the mayor."

Insurance debate leaves city drivers stranded

The high cost of auto insurance is shaping up to be one of the major issues in the gubernatorial race. This article examines the plans of the incumbent and the challenger to lower rates, while advising the motorist to do their homework in looking for a good car insurance rate.

First Union reverses policy on check cashing

Complaints and criticism towards the check cashing policies of First Union Bank caused the institution to make an about face in its services towards those without accounts wanting to cash checks at their banks.

EXPANDED HEARTBEAT SECTION

In celebration of Minority Health Month, City News expanded health and wellness section. HEARTBEAT will provide vital resources for information and education on the state of health in the African American community.

September 16

Zoo Crew arrests protested

Community organization Black N.Y.C.R.E. held a press conference on the steps on Newark's City Hall in response to the recent drug arrest of several persons said to be part of the Zoo Crew. Participants in the press conference said the arrests were simply a diversion from the ongoing investigation surrounding the shooting death of Danette "Strawberry" Daniels by Police officer Robert Leeds.

Althea Gibson refutes destitute label

Although the health of tennis great Althea Gibson has been in question for some time following several strokes, the physical condition of the East Orange resident is improved. Contrary to some reports, and because of assistance from continued on page 10

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**HEARTBEAT
CALENDAR**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7
TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital is offering a weight reduction program from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Day Center. For more info, call 201-837-1850.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8
WESTFIELD—A three session smoking cessation program will be held 7 p.m. at the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence office. For info, call 908-233-8810.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10
NEW BRUNSWICK—4-year old Rogelio Dominguez, Jr. and his family in desperate search for donor with matching "bone marrow." Registration is required. For more info, call 908-281-1018.

MONDAY, JANUARY 12
CLIFTON—Compassionate Care Hospice will be conducting volunteer training classes from 8:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more info, call 973-650-1100.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13
BELLE MEAD—A community program, "Stop Getting Angry & Start Getting What You Want," will be held at the Altkorn Amphitheater, Carner Foundation from 6:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more info, call 908-281-1018.

TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital's CPR Training Center is offering an evening cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training program designed to meet the needs and requirements of adults. For info, call 201-833-7246.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15
WESTFIELD—A smoking cessation program will be held 7 p.m. at the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence office. For more info, call 908-233-8810.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20
WESTFIELD—A smoking cessation program will be held 7 p.m. at the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence office. For more info, call 908-233-8810.

TEANECK—Menopausal management program will be held 7 p.m. at the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence office. For more info, call 1-888-AMID-LIFE.

African-Americans can prevent Hypertension

Fifty million U.S. adults have hypertension, another name for high blood pressure. Hypertension causes strokes, coronary heart disease, heart failure, kidney disease and even blindness. If high blood pressure is treated, many of these diseases could be avoided. For the last 25 years, many African Americans have made tremendous progress towards controlling their blood pressure and have avoided serious consequences. Unfortunately, nearly three out of four people with hypertension still don't control their high blood pressure. We can do better to control this silent killer.

The recently released SEATH Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure, contains valuable information about preventing and treating high blood pressure. Based on this report, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute has developed the enclosed fact sheet of particular interest to African Americans. Call the toll-free telephone number to receive additional information about preventing and controlling high blood pressure. That number is 1-800-573-WELL.

What You Can Do To Lower Your Blood Pressure

Lifestyle changes can help Americans lower high blood pressure. New guidelines from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute recommend these steps:



Maintain a healthy weight.
Excess body weight is closely related to increased blood pressure. Weight loss of as little as 10 pounds can reduce blood pressure.



Get regular physical activity.
Blood pressure can be lowered with moderately intense physical activity such as 30 minutes of brisk walking every day.



Eat healthy.
Your diet should be rich in fruits, vegetables, and low in fat, cholesterol and sodium (salt). Potassium is important in protecting against high blood pressure.



Limit alcohol consumption.
If you drink, drink no more than 2 beers (12 ounces each) or 2 small glasses of wine per day for men and half that per day for women.



Quit smoking.
Cigarette smoking is a powerful risk factor for cardiovascular disease. Stopping smoking will yield cardiovascular benefits that can be seen within a year.

While these activities can help lower blood pressure for some, they may not be enough for all. If your blood pressure remains high, your physician may prescribe medications.

ADS Quilt at Jersey City State



Wanda Shipman at center right, of Newark, assistant director of student support services at Jersey City State College, explained the significance of an AIDS quilt panel to Cathy Polito, center left, of Bayonne, a seventh grade teacher at James F. Murray School, and her students, Mark Bernardo, left, and Tina Hanoman, at the recent College display of the AIDS memorial quilt, "JCSJ Remembers." The quilt display was part of a series of JCSJ programs held in commemoration of "World AIDS Week." Campus programs also included an exhibit of "World AIDS Day" posters by Jersey City public school students, lectures on "What You Don't Know Can Kill You" and "AIDS Awareness," HIV testing services, a "Film Festival," "The ABCs of HIV" and "AIDS Awareness" programs, and a "Service of Remembrance."

Muhlenberg benefit raises more than \$100,000

Co-chairs Constance Nordstrom, at center, and Brian Shaw review the program for the *Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center*. Muhlenberg Auxiliary president Mari Bonini at the event that raised more than \$100,000 for the renovation of the Regional Dialysis Center of Central New Jersey at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

The gala, which also celebrated Muhlenberg's 120th birthday, was sponsored by Muhlenberg's Auxiliary, Medical/Dental staff, the medical center and the Fountains of the Appalachians. People attended the event, which was held at the Robert B. Meyer Reception Center in Holmdel.

Public hospitals provide services for poor, uninsured, underinsured

By Balhu Walker & Debra Hazelwood Lee
Special to the NNPA

Public hospitals nationwide are struggling to provide medical care to those Americans who need it most. The poor, the underinsured and the uninsured. Because of the growth of Medicaid managed care, reductions in federal and state government funding, and the rise in the number of people without insurance, some public hospitals are struggling to maintain their stability to stay afloat. Many are merging, converting to private institutions, or closing their doors.

In the past, most cities had at least one public hospital, and cities like New York and Los Angeles had entire public hospital systems. But between 1981 and 1993 the number of public hospitals closed or converted to private ownership by 25 percent. There is a trend, now Congress plans to cut Medicaid funding given specifically to public hospitals to help the needy, Medicaid, low-income Medicare, and uninsured patients. The pending budget cuts are also going to shrink public hospitals' revenues far below what it

necessary to meet the many health care needs of those who rely on this system for treatment. Given the popularity of privatizing services, and the apparent growth of so many forms of health care, why is it worth preserving public hospitals at all? Can't the rest of our health system pick up the slack? It would be nice if that were possible, but the facts prove otherwise. Indeed, already the tears in the public hospital safety net are creating a new health care crisis in its own right. If we continue to lose these hospitals, many African Americans and other minorities, especially in urban communities, stand to lose their last certain access to medical care.

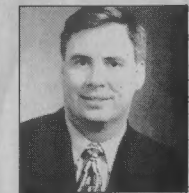
Public hospitals provide a significant share of all hospital care for those who are socially and economically underprivileged. As hospitals of last resort, they have become a health care safety net because of their policy of admitting anyone, insured and uninsured alike. They also have a tradition of striving to be culturally sensitive. Finally, public hospitals provide essential medical services which few clinics can offer

and private hospitals often find unprofitable such as emergency care, trauma care, burn care, and neonatal care, and they provide these vital services for the entire community.

The importance of this situation is brought into sharper focus by the increase in the number of uninsured. The most recent data suggest that there are more than 40 million people in the United States who lack health insurance, including more than seven million African Americans. The number of uninsured is growing steadily as the cost of insurance continues to rise and as full-time full-benefit employment remains scarce in urban minorities. Many full-time positions are being replaced as well by temporary, contract or part-time jobs without health coverage.

According to the National Association of Public Hospitals, federal DSH payments account for 13 percent of public hospitals' total revenues and pay for 40 percent of the cost of treating uninsured patients. The pending budget cuts are therefore going to shrink public hospitals' revenues far below what is necessary to

Mertz appointed Executive Director of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center



Paul A. Mertz has been appointed Executive Director of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System.

Mertz, who served as Associate Executive Director of the medical center since August 1997, will assume his new duties immediately.

Mertz joined Newark Beth Israel Medical Center from Hospital Center at Orange, where he spent 12 years, most recently as President and Chief Executive Officer. He held a series of progressively responsible positions at the hospital center, leading to the center's most senior position. Prior to Hospital Center at Orange, Mertz worked at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.



Sexual assault victims benefit from program

NEWARK—Thanks to a grant from the State of New Jersey's STOP Violence Against Women Grant Program, adult female rape victims in Essex County will now have access to a new outpatient program which provides immediate psychological counseling and support services at no cost to victims. The Sexual Assault Response Initiative (SARI) program at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center was developed in response to a need for the service in Essex County.

On January 14, beginning at 10 a.m. - 12 noon, clinical specialists from the SARI program will sponsor an information session for social service providers and the general public to provide details about the program. The session will be held in first floor Board Room at the medical center, located at 201 Lyons Avenue in Newark.

Because Newark Beth Israel Medical Center's Emergency Services Department is designated as the Essex County Rape Care Center for children and adults, we saw first-hand the need to develop a comprehensive clinical sexual assault program for victims and their families," said Rani Seiberg, LSW, SARI program coordinator.

"Through a multi-disciplinary team approach, one of our main goals is to help clients develop coping skills and to put them back on the road to recovery."

Adult female sexual assault victims who receive emergency treatment at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center's Emergency Services Department or intervention from a local community

service agency will now be referred to the SARI program located at the medical center.

Within 48 hours after discharge from emergency services, a clinical specialist from SARI will contact women who have requested counseling and other support services.

The SARI program is designed to support clients in several ways. Beginning with access to information on protective services, clients will participate in weekly individual and group therapy sessions. Counseling will also be provided for affected family members. In addition, the staff will refer clients to medical care or social services as needed. And upon completion of the program, follow-up services will be provided to clients based on recommendations from the staff. All services are confidential.

Rani Seiberg and other members of the SARI staff are affiliated with Children's Hospital of New Jersey ABIM, Management Program (CHAMP), also located at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. The team which serves children rape victims is composed of clinical specialists, psychologists and social workers who have many years of experience working with both children and adult rape victims.

"With focused case management and treatment, the SARI program is designed to meet the immediate and ongoing psychological and support needs of rape victims. We believe that re-victimization will decrease through the therapy process," notes Seiberg.

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*Source: League of Women Voters 6/97

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Artz Wednesday

City News 8

January 7-January 13, 1998

Billboard

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

NEWARK—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Johannes Brahms with a three-week Brahms Festival running through Jan. 31st. Performances will take place at the State Theatre at 8 p.m. For more info, call 973-624-3713, ext. 234.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

SOMERVILLE—Poncho Sanchez Latin Band will perform 8 p.m. at The Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College. For more info, call 908-725-3420.

PISCATAWAY—"Death of a Salesman" will be performed 8 p.m. at the Circle Playhouse. For more info, call 732-968-7555.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

JERSEY CITY—A musical performance by the North Jersey Philharmonic Orchestra will be held at the Miller Branch Library at 8:00 p.m. Free admission and free parking available. For more info, call 973-547-6907.

NEWARK—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Johannes Brahms with a three-week Brahms Festival running through Jan. 31st. Performances will take place at New Jersey Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m. For more info, call 973-624-3713, ext. 234.

PRINCETON—McCarter's singertown festival continues with Martin Sexton and Susan Warner 6 p.m. For more info, call 609-252-0915.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

NEWARK—Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble will perform 10 a.m., School Time Performance series. For more info, call 201-642-2002.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

NEWARK—Internationally acclaimed composer, conductor and pianist, Steve Colton will debut his composition, "as in a Cultural Renaissance" at Newark's 10th annual "Sing in Praise of King" celebration, dedicated to the dynamic legacy of the great human rights advocate, the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. At 7 p.m. in the Prudential Hall of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. The concert is free and open to the general public. For more info, call 973-733-3697.

NEWARK—"Sing in Praise of King" 10th annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held at the NJ Chamber Music Society at 7 p.m. For more info, call 201-733-6454.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

NEW YORK—Jazz at Lincoln Center features Cuba's rich musical heritage including pianist Chucho Valdes. For more info, call 212-875-5599.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

NEWARK—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Johannes Brahms with a three-week Brahms Festival running through Jan. 31st. Performances will take place at New Jersey Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m. For more info, call 973-624-3713, ext. 234.

NEW YORK—Jazz at Lincoln Center features Cuba's rich musical heritage including pianist Chucho Valdes. For more info, call 212-875-5599.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

NEW BRUNSWICK—The State Theatre presents "The Mahabharat Transfer" at 8 p.m. For more info, call 732-246-7469.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

NEW YORK—Noted Cuban-American producer, historian and lecturer, Rene Lopez will moderate the panel discussion "Cuban Music Today," a Jazz Talk program featuring various artists at 7 p.m. in the Blatney H. Kaplan Penhouse of the Samuel B. and David B. Rose Building. For more info, call 212-875-5599.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

NEW YORK—Metro Blue singer, Holly Cole, will perform tracks from her praised current release, "Dark Dear Heart" 8 p.m. at the Westbeth Theatre. For more info, call 212-741-0391.

NEW YORK—Jazz at Lincoln Center features Cuba's rich musical heritage at 8 p.m., in Alice Tully Hall. For more info, call 212-875-5599.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

NEW BRUNSWICK—George Street Playhouse presents "The Kill A Mockingbird" Through Feb. 28th. For more info, call 908-234-7717.

NEW YORK—Jazz at Lincoln Center features Cuba's rich musical heritage at 8 p.m., in Alice Tully Hall. For more info, call 212-875-5599.

Pam Grier is Jackie Brown

Written and directed by Quentin Tarantino and based on Elmore Leonard's 1995 bestseller *Rum Punch*, *Jackie Brown* is at once a comic crime caper and a story of real people who step out of the legal from time to time. Five charismatic characters are chasing a half million dollars cash, and there's only one question...who's

Jackie (Pam Grier) supplements her meager income as a stewardess by smuggling cash into the U.S. for gunrunner R. D. Jackson (Samuel L. Jackson)—until the day an ATF agent (Michael Keaton) and an LA cop (Michael Bowen) bust her at the airport. The cops pressure her to help them bring down Jackson, threatening prison if she refuses. With a sympathetic bail bondsman (Robert Forster), who understands her ruthlessness only too well, Jackie arrives at a bold almost

foolishly plan to play off those opposing forces against each other. Matters are complicated by Ortel's confederates, Louis Gara (Robert De Niro) and Melanie Ralston (Bridget Fonda) who have agendas of their own. By agreeing to cooperate with both sides, Jackie attempts to outfox them both and walk away with a half million dollar payday.

Jackie Brown is a Maxam Films release of A Band Apart production, directed and written by Quentin Tarantino, based upon the novel "Rum Punch" by Elmore Leonard. Produced by Lawrence Bender, executive producers Harvey Weinstein, Bob Weinstein, Richard Gladstein, Elmore Leonard, co-producer Paul Hellerman, with Pam Grier, Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Forster, Bridget Fonda, Robert De Niro, Michael Bowen, Michael Bowen, Chris Tucker, and Thomas "Tiny" Lister.



Kenny G Greatest Hits



Kenny G

The joyous "Songbird," the quick-witted "Silhouette," the soulful and seductive "Don't Make Me Wait For Love," the magical and romantic "Forever in Love"—songs that have touched the hearts of millions of music fans everywhere. They're just a few of the landmarks in a career that has made Kenny G the #1 instrumentalist of all time, and they're all part of Kenny's tenth album, *Kenny G Greatest Hits*. It's a collection that documents the highlights of a 15-year journey in the life of a musician who had a dream to become the best. That dream had a dramatic impact on the history of contemporary music.

Super Producer Plays Big Willie



Highlights Of Montreux Live starting January 10

WBGO Jazz 88.3 FM takes out centerstage and behind the scenes of Montreux Switzerland's internationally renowned jazz festival with Highlights of Montreux Live. The program features 13 live performances of past Montreux Jazz Festival including performance highlights and backstage artist interviews. Produced by Brinkhouse Productions, the program airs every Saturday at 1 a.m. beginning January 10. "Highlights of Montreux Live follow the performers both on and off stage, as they greet old friends, meet new ones, and share experiences."

Studio wizard Fantastic 5, struck again, and he may have hit the jackpot. His production work so impressed rap veteran Will Smith, that he invited Fantastic to spend some time in the studio with him as he recorded his new CD. Is there a collaboration in the works? Fantastic's production magic can be heard on remixes for Chubb Rock, Toni Braxton and The Brand New Heavies. He is the producer of L.A.'s smash "Crush On You." Big Willie Style, the new CD from Will Smith, is in stores.

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In Recognition Of Black History Month



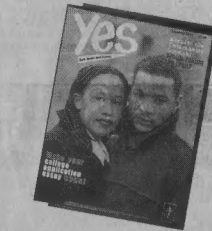
CLASSICS Illustrated
Addition:
The Life of Frederick Douglass
NEW YORK, N.Y.—In celebration of Black History Month, Acclaim Books, a subsidiary of Acclaim Entertainment, Inc., is proud to add *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* to its best-selling literature collection. *CLASSICS Illustrated* books have provided an introduction to the world's greatest works of literature for over 50 years. Acclaim Books continues this tradition with the compelling life story and contributions of an African-American pioneer and champion of civil rights, Frederick Douglass.

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass is an inspirational retelling of one man's search for freedom and the fight for the emancipation of an entire people. Depicted in traditional comic book serial-art style, with vividly-colored original illustrations, the story is told by Frederick Douglass from his life as a slave and fugitive, to his rise as an educator and leader in the abolition of slavery. Included is a modern day analysis written by Joshua Miller, an instructor in the Department of English and Comp. Literature at Columbia University, as well as a study guide to help students better understand elements of the comic book serial-art style, with vividly-colored original illustrations. Published in today's popular 7 5/8 inch-by-11 1/4 inch soft cover "digest" format, each book carries a suggested retail price of \$4.99 and will be available this February wherever books are sold. Consumers can call 1-888-9-ACCLAIM for more information.

Classics Illustrated is a descendent of *Classic Comics*, the first line to undertake comic book adaptation of classic novels. From its original development in 1941 through 1973, more than a billion copies of *Classic Comics* in more than 20 languages had been distributed in more than 30 countries.

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Bridgeport is going to the dogs

Of special interest to the folks who enjoy the excitement of greyhound (dog) racing, the new Bridgeport-Shoreline Star Greyhound Track in Connecticut will open on March 20. The beautiful complex has been built on the site of the former Bridgeport Jai Alai. Shoreline Star will host eight programs each week with pari-mutuel wagering on every race. Matinees will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. Evening programs are slated for Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. The track features two restaurants that include the Terrace Dining Room overlooking the races, with individual TV monitors on each table. The Shoreline Star, too, offers a full schedule of simulcast from the premier thoroughbred, harness and other greyhound tracks in the Country. The track is now accepting group reservations. The season will continue through September 13. For interested parties the toll free number is 1-888-GO-DOG-GO. The Shoreline Star complex is only a 30 minute drive from any major New York City bridge, directly off Exit 28 I-95.

NEW Track OPENS MARCH 20th

Bridgeport's Shoreline Star Greyhound Park

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or call 908-754-4470.

continued from page 5

ple who have rallied to her aid, she is not penniless.

The Enigma of Fela lives on
A profile on the internationally renowned Afro-beat musician, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, who died at 50 of heart failure and complications from AIDS. Fela was the first Nigerian to use his lyrics to criticize social ills and oppressive government.

Crossroads opens 20th season with poet Laureate Dove

The landmark 20th season of the Crossroads Theater Company opens with the World Premier of "The Darker Face of the Earth," a new, generational story of the Oedipus myth set in a cotton plantation in 19th Century South Carolina. The author of the story is U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove.

September 23

Benjamin Muhammad visits New Jersey

Following on the heels of Minister Louis Farrakhan's recent visit to New Jersey, newly appointed Minister Benjamin Chavis Muhammad came to Plainfield as part of the Revival Tour which seeks to establish October 16 as a holy day for African-Americans.

Whitman reaffirms commitment to civil rights and affirmative action

At the Governor's Conference on Women, Christine Whitman highlighted the expanding role of women in New Jersey's economy and discussed her initiatives to assist women business owners. "As you know I have been a staunch proponent of affirmative action and civil rights to protect all women from workplace discrimination."

September 30

New York cops control vote

In the wake of the New York City Board of Elections running a mismanaged primary election that resulted in an undercut of the voting resulting results of both candidates Ruth Messinger and the Reverend Al Sharpton, it was discovered that the New York City Police not only gaud the polls but record the vote and feed it into the department's central computer.

Asbury Park Public Housing upgrade

Formerly troubled public housing in Asbury Park was confirmed to be much improved after a review of its overall functions by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Housing head fights for job

Although Carolyn Reese has 13 years working with housing authorities in Plainfield and Newark, she was informed by the State Department that her credential were not sufficient to remain in the position of Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Plainfield.

October

A memorial for Connie Woodruff
The prison industry is fueled by black men. Candidates speak to Ministers. Executive on C.I.T.E. The Renaissance in Newark housing. NAACP's gala opening.

Some of the news for the week ending...

October 7

Father and six-year-old son strip searched

A nine-count lawsuit against Bloomfield's department store was filed in the case of a Teaneck man and his six-year-old son who were subjected to a strip search. Two other cases of abuse by Bloomfield's security were profiled in this article.

A tribute to Connie "Newark's Own" Connie Woodruff

A film documenting the life and career of the City New political columnist was part of a memorial service commemorating the first anniversary of her death.

Public and private entities start revitalization of Weequahic Park

A golf tournament held on the 18-hole course in Newark's second largest park drew corporate and community support as well as raised funds to benefit the Weequahic Park Association, Inc., an organization dedicating to restoring the park to its former splendor.

Black males boost prison industry

A report on the cover article in the October issue of Emmerge Magazine says that the \$40 billion correctional-industrial industry may be a double-edged sword for African-American communities who want safer streets and the well-paying, recession-proof jobs it creates, but whose primary commodity is Black men and women.

October 14

Ministers disappointed in gubernatorial presentations

Three gubernatorial candidates made presentations before the Black Minister's Council of New Jersey. After the presentation, the consensus of the Council was that they received no promises from the candidates and

heard nothing substantial in answer to questions concerning black voters in New Jersey.

November 25

Remembering the Newark Riots

The newly established Rutgers Institute of Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience held their first conference, Memory and Newark—July 1967. Six individuals shared their memories of what happened during the rebellion in Newark 30 years ago.

Paterson, Plainfield and East Orange seal black mayors

New Jersey's third-largest city, the second largest city in Essex County and the Queen City of New Jersey have one thing in common—African American mayors. A profile of Newark's Melvin Barnes, Plainfield's Al McWilliams and East Orange's Bob Bowser.

Howard Robinson, South Jersey radio personality, dies at age 71

The host of the WTHM public affairs program, "In the Public Interest" and "Creative Entrepreneur" died on injuries sustained in a car accident. A great asset to the radio station and resource to the community, Howard Robinson's programs consistently ranked number one in their time slot on the Atlantic City station.

December

Come one, come all to the Masquerade Ball, Piscataway dance squares. Black Sepulchres? Where? New Essex County Prosecutor Lyons to NAACP: "I am innocent. Crime down in New Jersey, Godday's men culpa. These are the 'Men of Valor,' Kwanzaa's First Night."

Some of the news for the week ending...

December 2

Rev. Lyons: NAACP is wrong

One of four prominent board members asked to tender their resignation by NAACP chairwoman Myrtle Evers-Williams, Rev. Henry Lyons said that the organization is yielding to the pressure of the white media.

Black, Hispanic, Asian newspapers demand government advertising

A coalition of Black and Hispanic newspaper publishers—soon to be joined Asian Pacific publishers—called on President Clinton to end "the systematic exclusion of minority-owned media from Federal Government advertising allocations."

Historic coin to help raise money for black Revolutionary War Memorial

A coin commemorating the African American contribution to the Revolutionary War is unveiled in Washington. Proceeds from the coin sales are earmarked to help build the Black Patriots Memorial.

December 9

A Tale of Two Families

An commentary by Earl Ofari Hutchinson compares the almost nonexistent media and financial attention given to Jacqueline and Linden Thompson and their couplets with reports of the "miracle birth" of the McCaughys septuplets.

Pat Hunt nominated Essex County Prosecutor

In an effort to bolster support in the blacked community, Christine Whitman named an African-American woman named to take over the office of Essex County Prosecutor, Patricia Hart served as chief prosecutor in the Essex County Prosecutor's office.

Benjamin Muhammad named new leader of New York Mosque

Minister Louis Farrakhan named Benjamin Chavis Muhammad head of Muhammad's Mosque #7 in New York. Saying that Chavis Muhammad will bring a "fresh view" to the nation's organizers estimate to be two million and unofficial police counts put somewhere between 500,000 and 1.5 million.

December 16

Reverse bias suit settlement debated

An alliance of civil rights groups that by characters in television commercial on the National Newspaper Publishers Association agreed to pay a settlement of \$443,500 regarding the high-profile case of Piscataway vs. Township of a white teacher who claimed she was laid off in order so Debra Williams, a black teacher, could retain her position.

Black police organization questions police shooting

A coalition of Black Police Officers from the tri-state area demanded an investigation into the shooting of Port Authority police officer Corvet Hurt by a white State Trooper while responding to a high-speed chase on the George Washington Bridge.

Church and medical center collaborate to form new health center

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and St. James A.M.E. Church celebrated the opening of The Center for Family Life at St. James. It is the

first area collaboration between a church and a major medical center.

December 23

A different view of Atlantic City schools controversy

With an eye towards building a first-class school system, superintendent of Atlantic City Public School, Dr. Benjamin Williams was interviewed by Dr. Henry Johnson on the WTHM-FM talk show "In the Public Interest" about recent incidents in the neighborhood media, and the plans Williams has to upgrade the system.

Ron Brown may have suffered gunshot wound

After the sudden death in April, 1990 of U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, a Pittsburgh Tribune-Express points to speculation that a hole in Brown's head could have been made by a gunshot wound.

Sharpton defense opens in NY defamation trial

An attorney for civil rights activist the Reverend Al Sharpton denied in court that Sharpton made

defamatory statements in the racially charged Tawana Brawley case of 1987. Sharpton and two other former advisors to Brawley are being sued for defamation by former prosecutor Steven Pagones, one of six white men accused of the kidnapping and rape of Brawley.

December 24, 1997-January 6, 1998 YEAR END SPECIAL

Men of Valor receive praise

Some of New Jersey's top spiritual leaders were honored for their outstanding work by the Performing Arts. Proceeds from the event will help to fund the annual African American Heritage Day Parade.

"This is the Black Family"

Almost 2,000 people attended the Fifth Annual Pre-Kwanzaa sponsored by Black Cops Against Police Brutality. The wide-ranging program featured activist Dick Gregory as the keynote speaker.

The Seven Principals of Kwanzaa

Individual City News staff members wrote editorials about specific principals of Kwanzaa to complement the annual message issued by the holiday's founder, Maulana Karenga.

Legacy and tradition at First Masquerade Ball

The African American Heritage Ball committee celebrated a gala First Masquerade Ball at the New Jersey Center for the Performing Arts. Proceeds from the event will help to fund the annual African American Heritage Day Parade.

First Night Newark Arts Line-up

First Night Newark, an alcohol-free event that will close 1997 and open 1998, plans to have dance, music theater, poetry film, art, and the unexpected fill the city's streets, plazas, parks, storefronts and churches. Mayor Sharpe James said, "This community will make First Night Newark a Family tradition."

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